

Columbia County Juvenile Court



In Conjunction with Sheriff Clay Whittle &
District Attorney Danny Craig

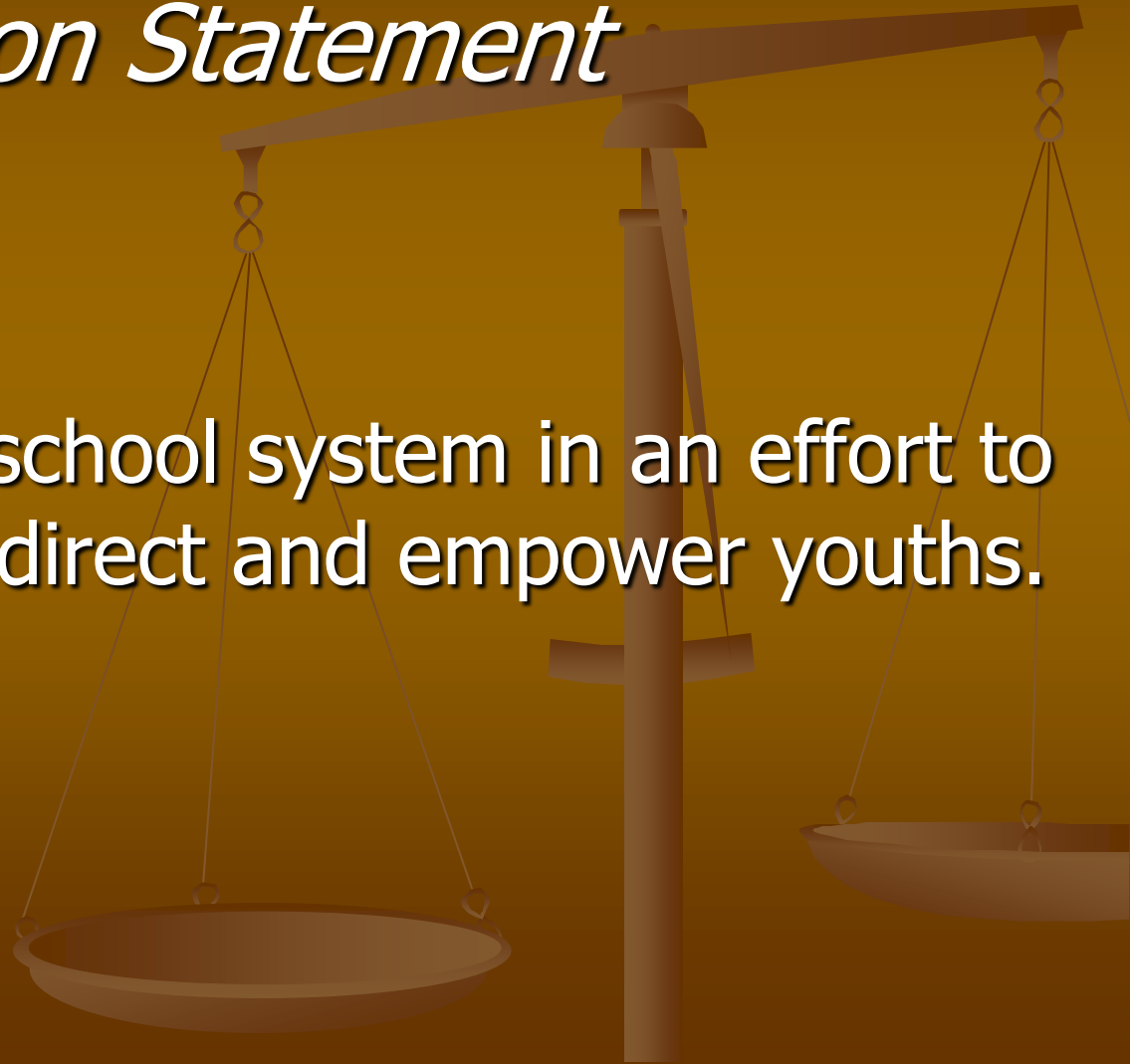
Presents

“Choices and Consequences”

Choices and Consequences

Mission Statement

Partnering with the school system in an effort to educate, direct, redirect and empower youths.



Choice- A decision to select a course of action in preference to others

Consequence- The result, effect, outcome of a course of action

Choices



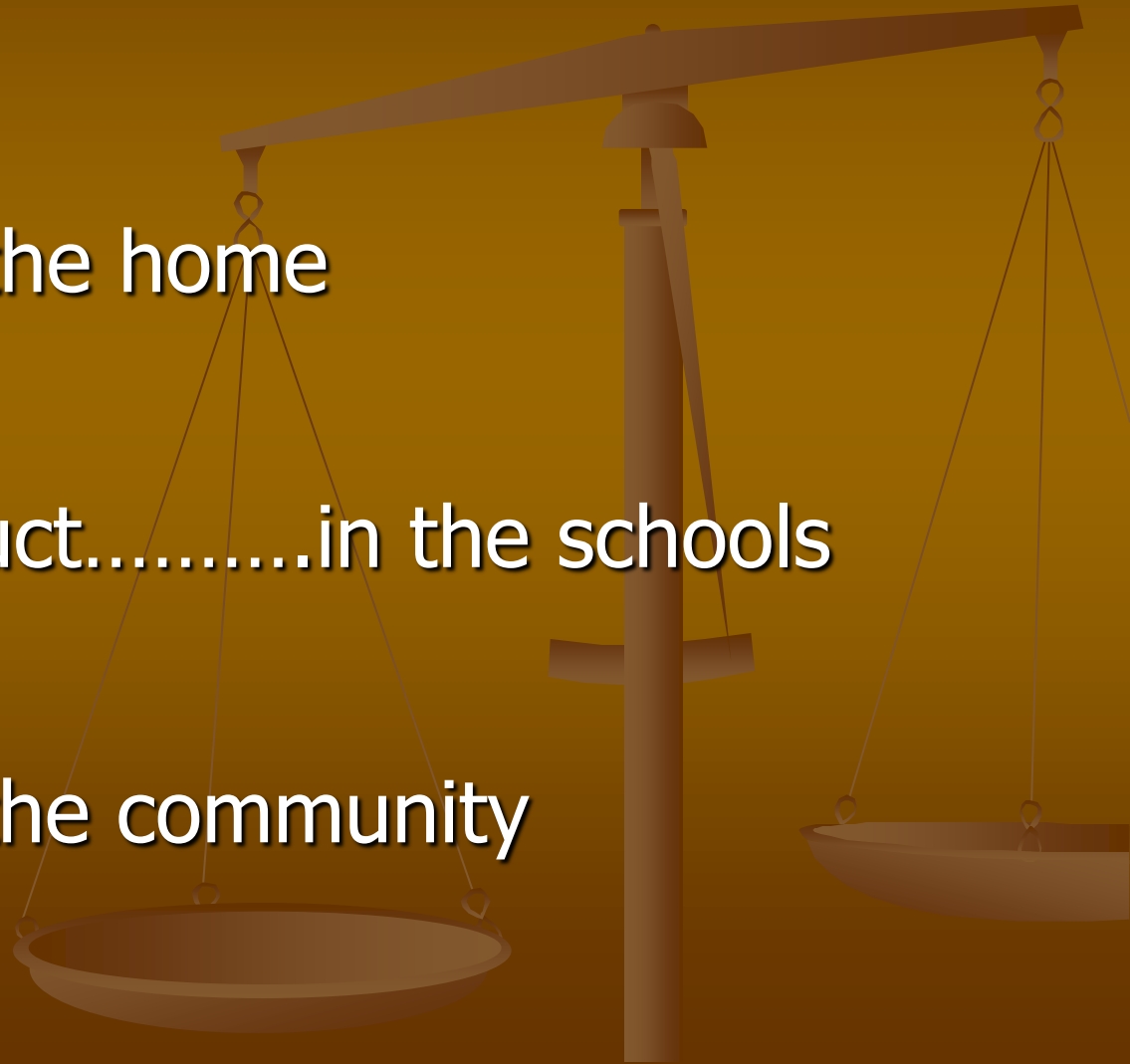
Consequences

What would happen if there were no.....

*Rules.....in the home

*Code of Conduct.....in the schools

*Laws.....in the community



What would happen if there were no
Consequences for breaking.....

Rules in the home

Code of Conduct in the school

Laws in the community



- Chaos
- Uproar
- Conflict
- Disorder
- Confusion



Is there a need to speak with today's middle school students about Choices and Consequences?

Juvenile Status/
Delinquent Offenders
Ages 11-15

2004

129 youth

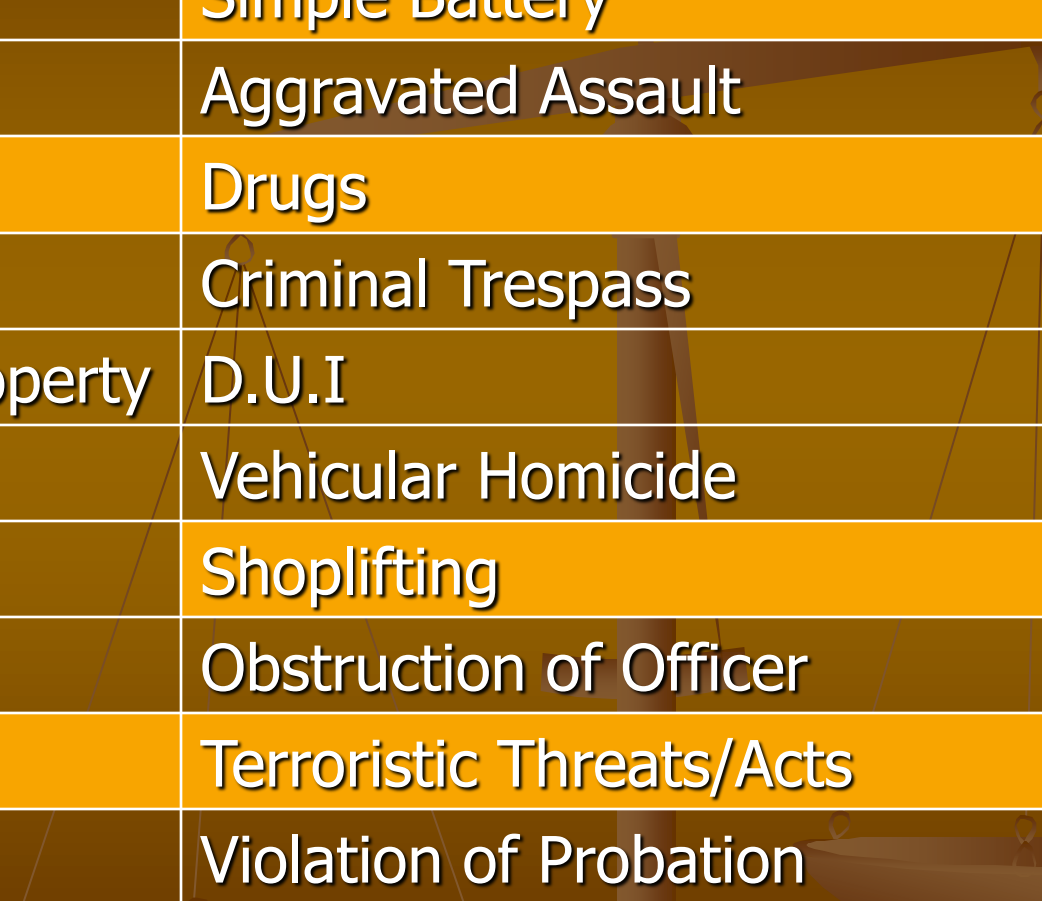
2005

373 youth

01/01/06 – 10/12/06

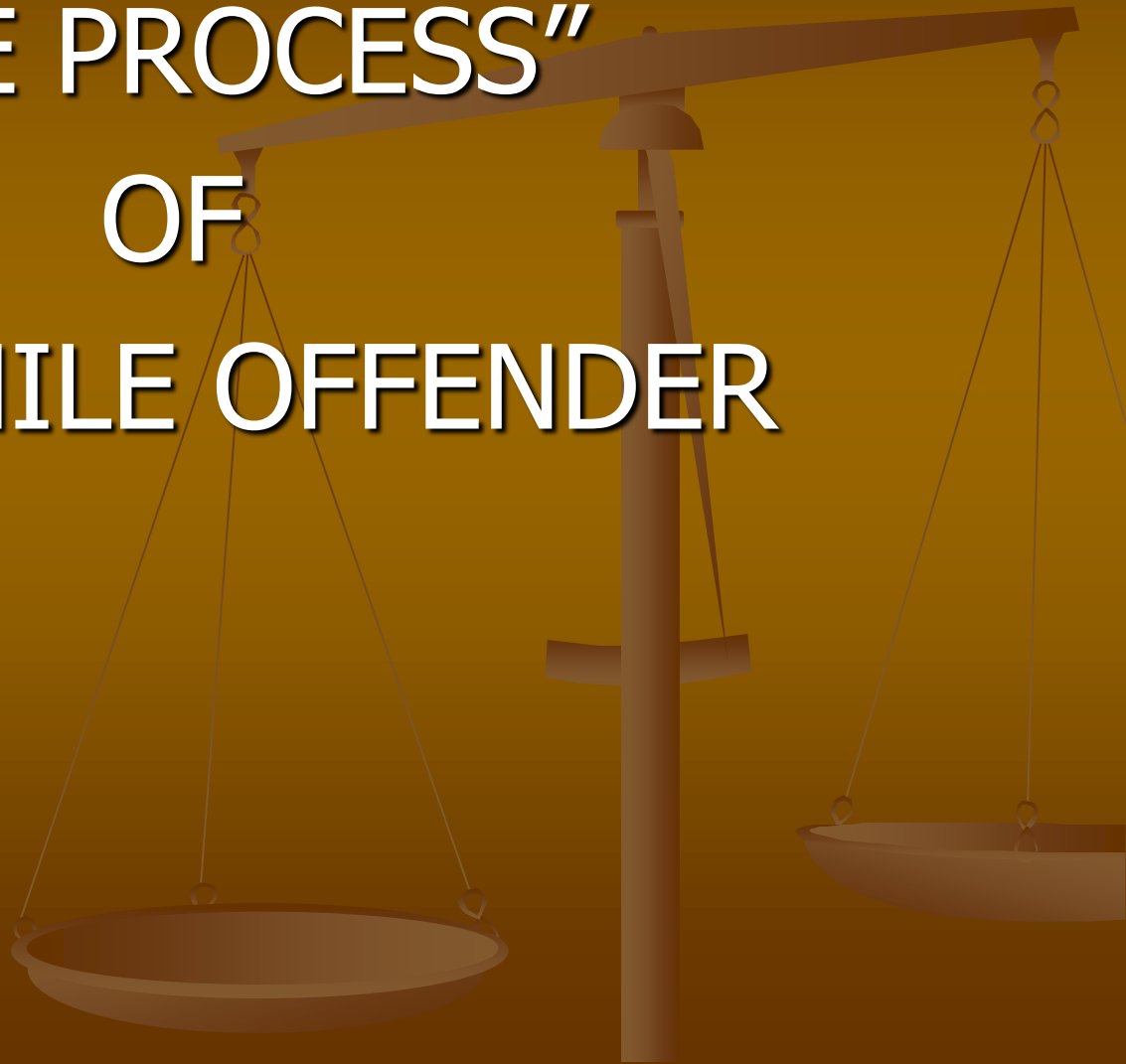
401 youth

Offenses committed by Juveniles



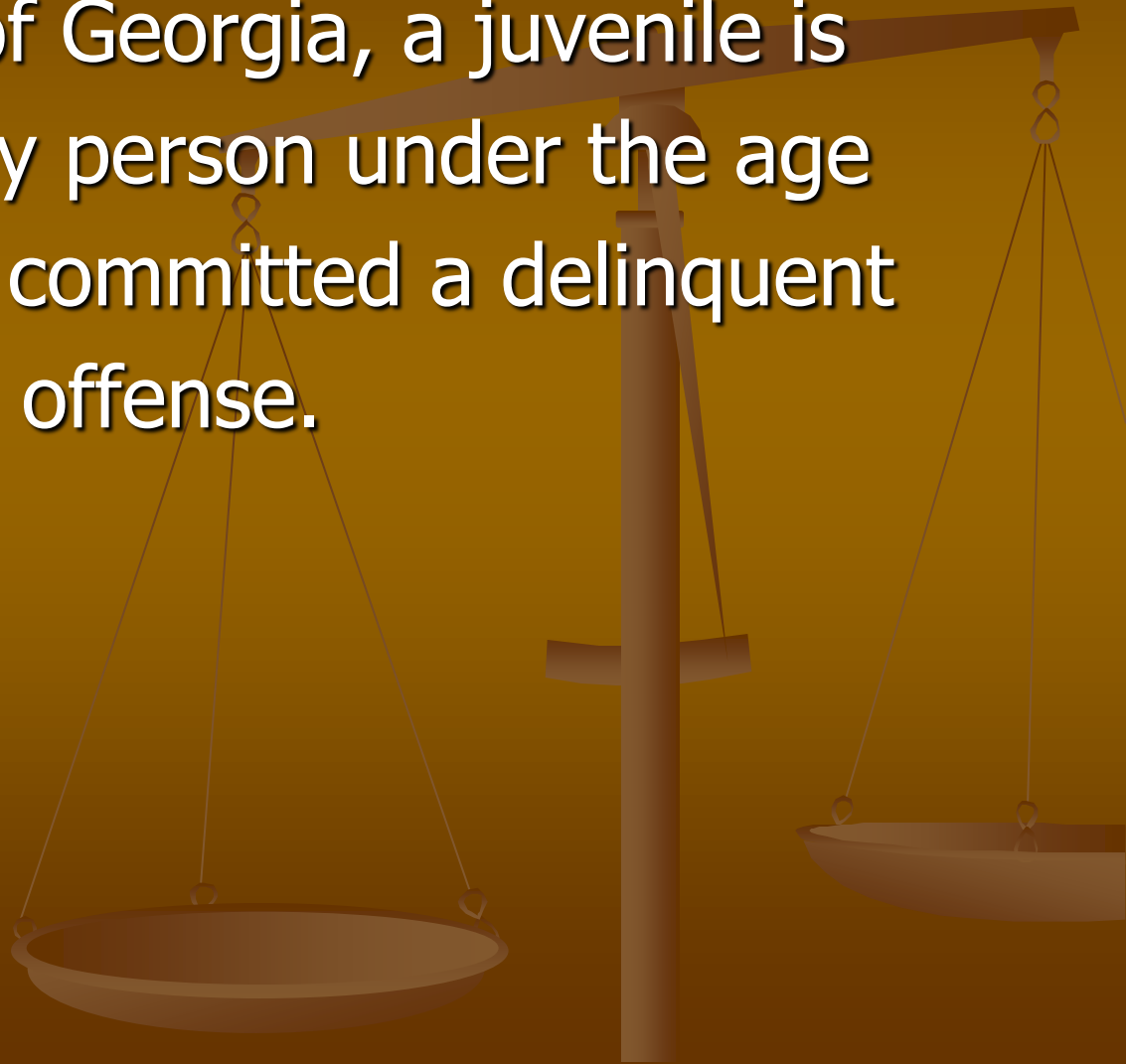
Unruly/runaway	Affray/disorderly conduct
Truancy	Simple Battery
Loitering	Aggravated Assault
Alcohol	Drugs
Burglary	Criminal Trespass
Criminal Damage to Property	D.U.I
Traffic Offenses	Vehicular Homicide
Forgery	Shoplifting
Motor Vehicle theft	Obstruction of Officer
Sexual Crimes	Terroristic Threats/Acts
Weapon Charges	Violation of Probation

"THE PROCESS" OF A JUVENILE OFFENDER

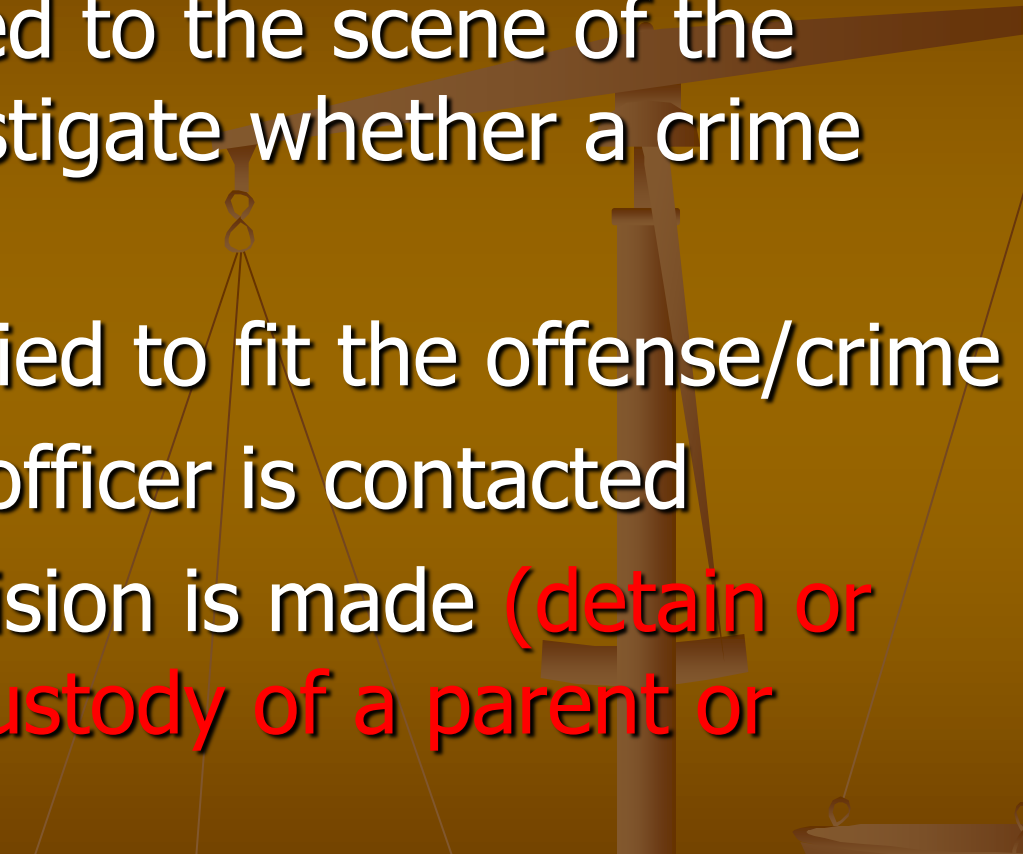


What is a juvenile?

In the state of Georgia, a juvenile is considered any person under the age of 17 who has committed a delinquent offense.

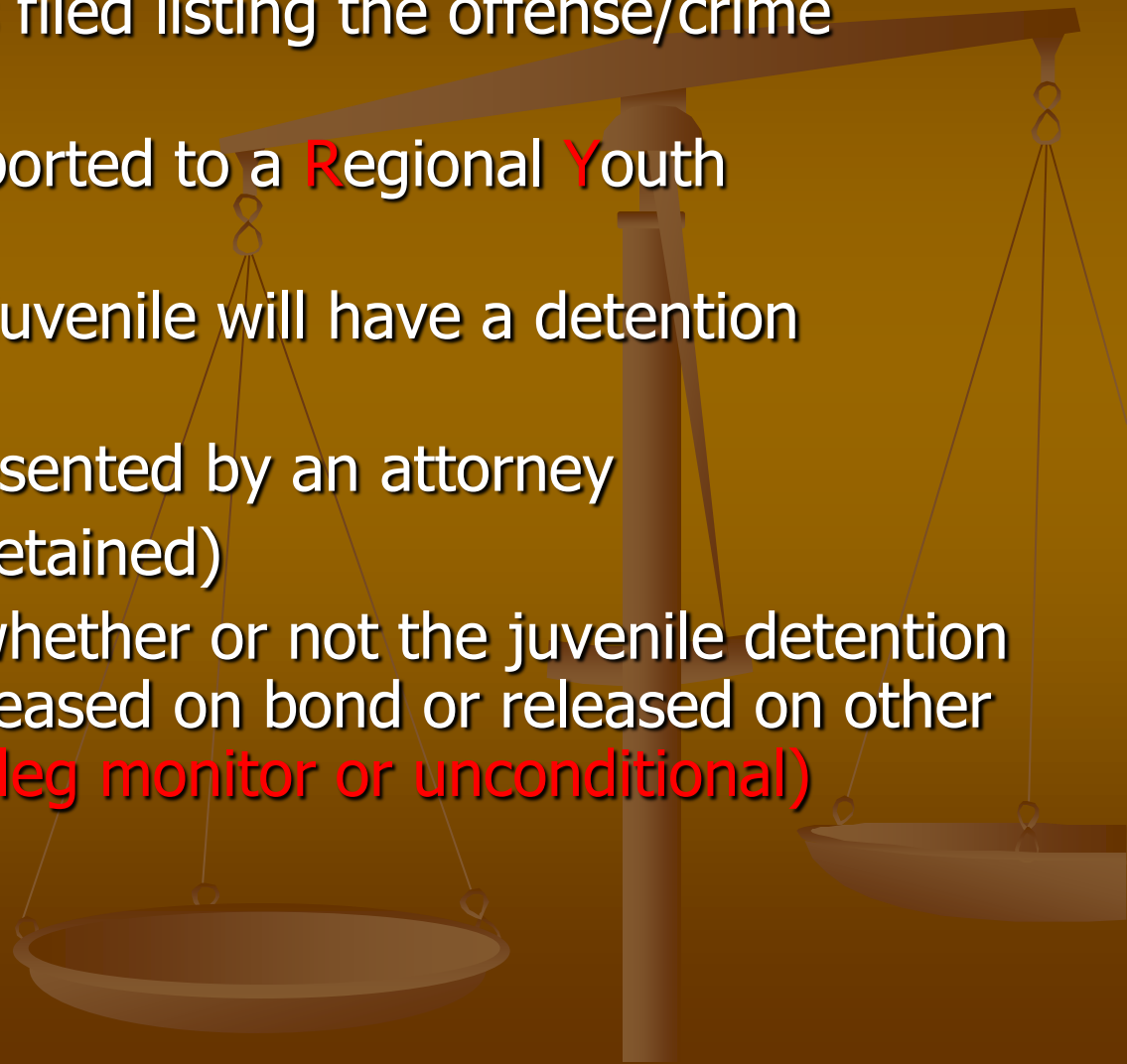


What happens when a juvenile commits an offense/ crime?

- A deputy is called to the scene of the incident to investigate whether a crime has occurred
 - A charge is applied to fit the offense/crime
 - Juvenile intake officer is contacted
 - A detention decision is made (detain or release to the custody of a parent or guardian)
- 

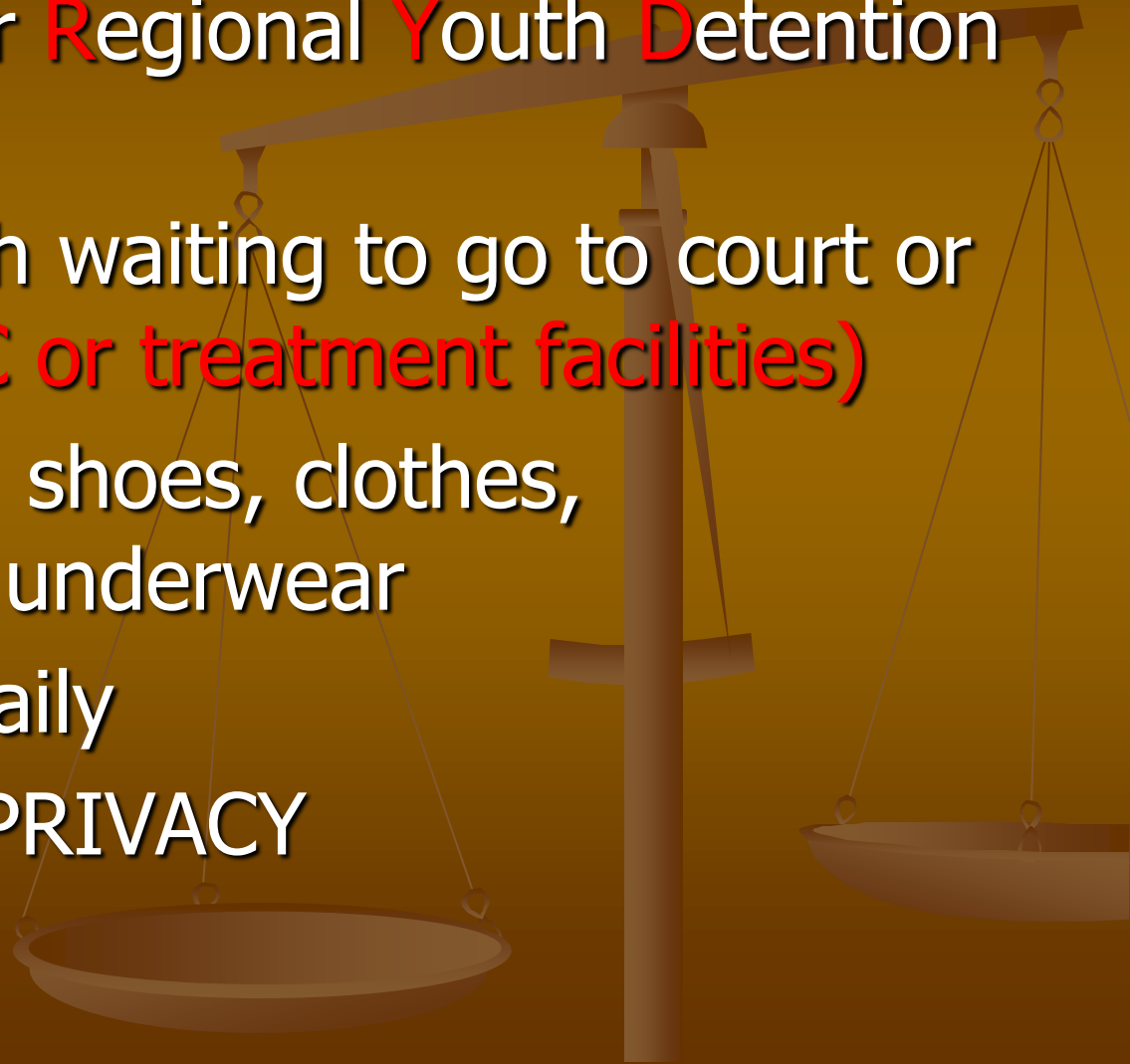
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A JUVENILE IS DETAINED?

- A formal complaint is filed listing the offense/crime committed
- The juvenile is transported to a **Regional Youth Detention Center**
- Within 72 hours the juvenile will have a detention hearing
- Juvenile will be represented by an attorney (public defender or retained)
- A Judge will decide whether or not the juvenile detention will be continued, released on bond or released on other conditions (**tracking, leg monitor or unconditional**)



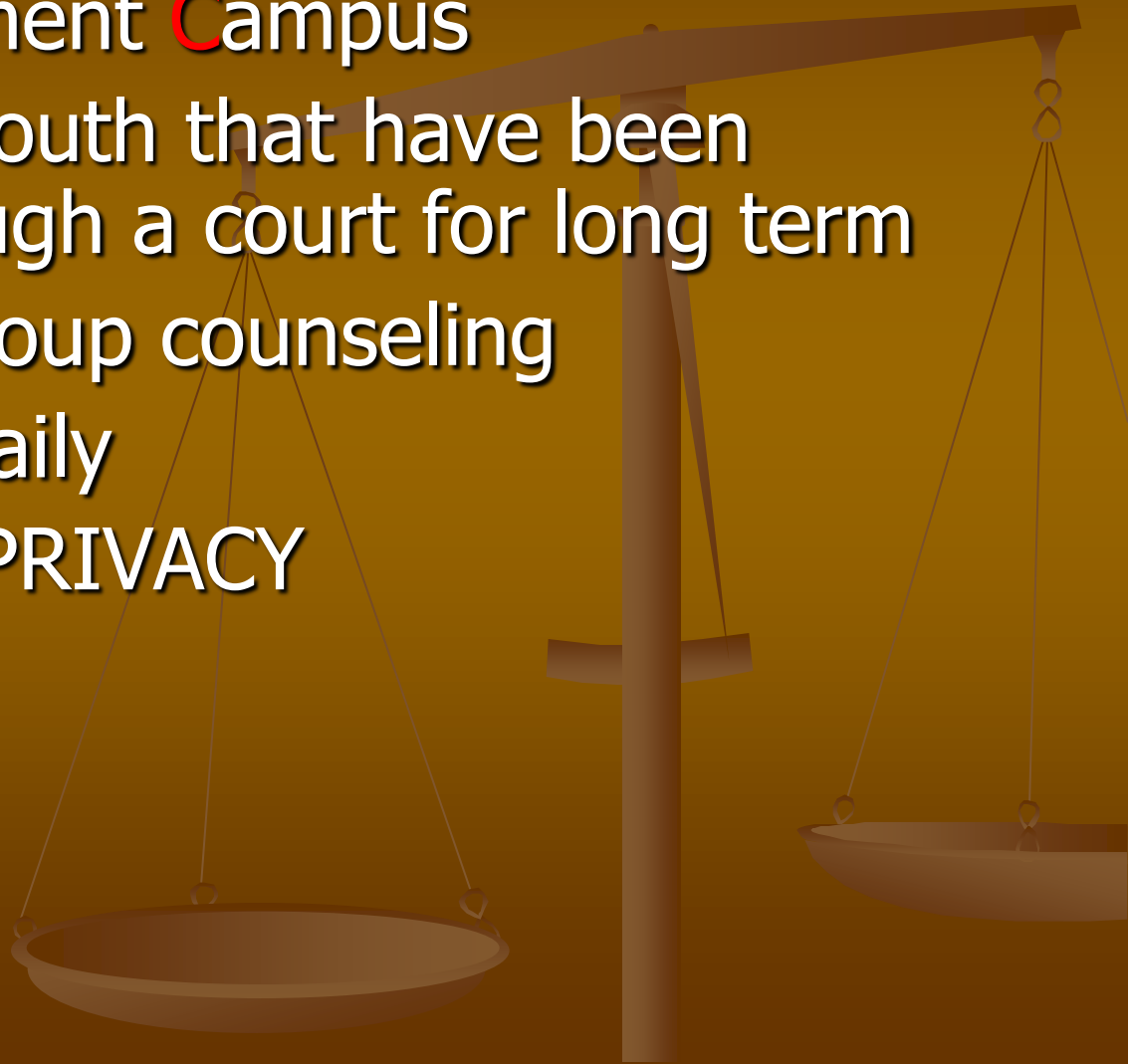
WHAT IS A RYDC?

- RYDC stands for **Regional Youth Detention Center**
- Facility for youth waiting to go to court or placement (**YDC or treatment facilities**)
- Items provided: shoes, clothes, toothbrush and underwear
- Attend school daily
- **YOU HAVE NO PRIVACY**



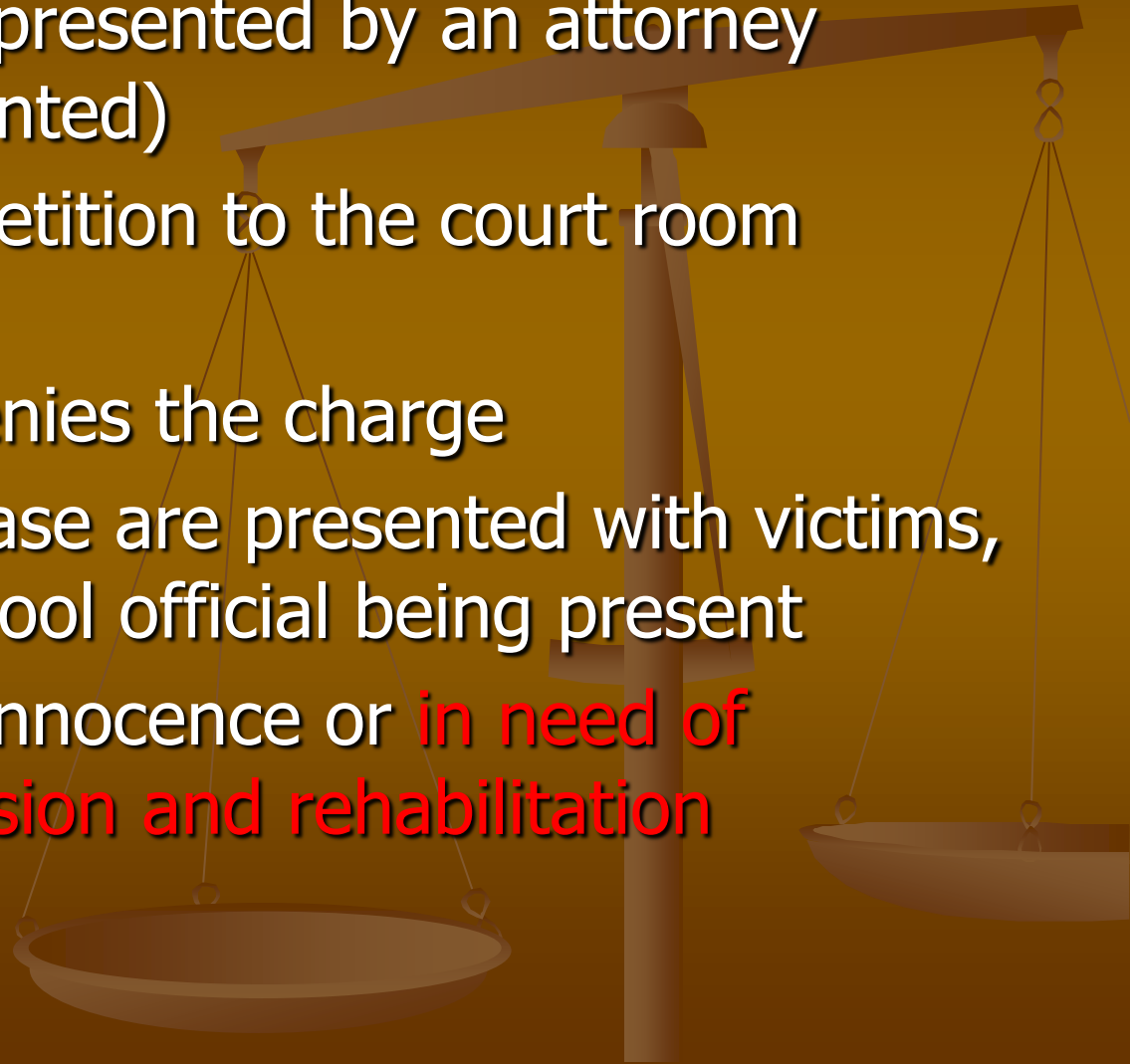
WHAT IS A YDC?

- Youth Development Campus
- Placement for youth that have been sentenced through a court for long term
- Youth attend group counseling
- Attend school daily
- YOU HAVE NO PRIVACY

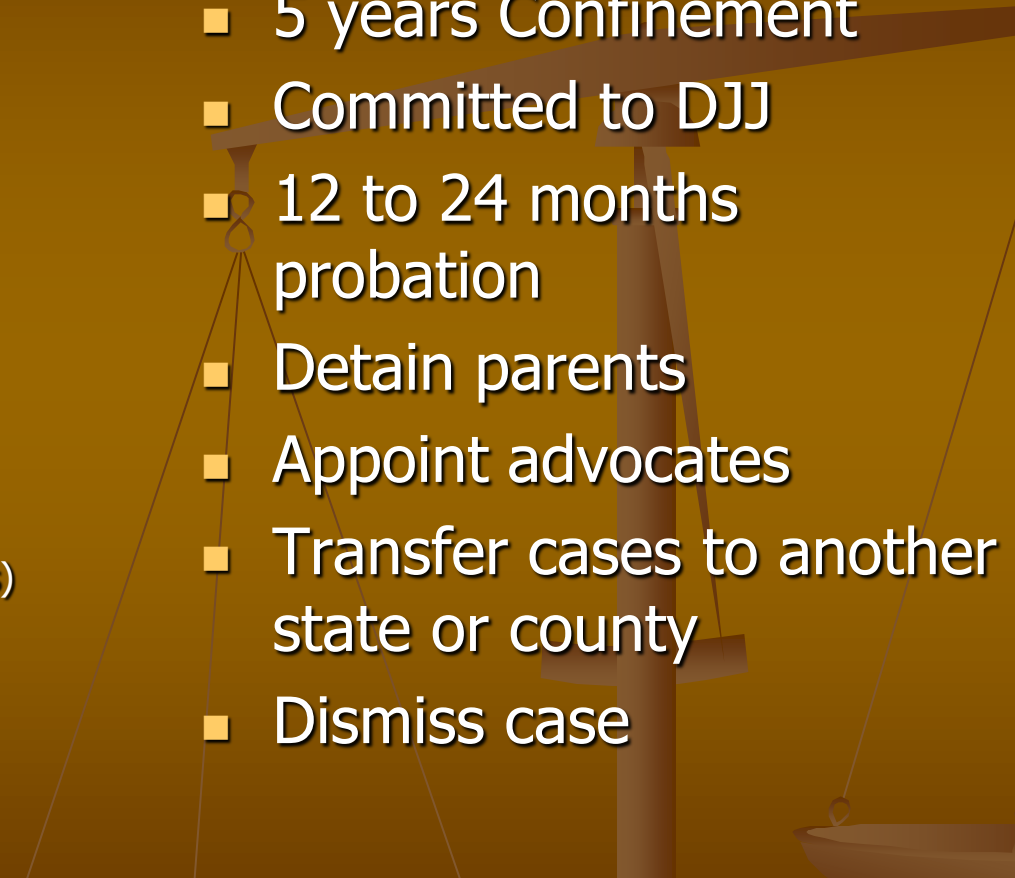


WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A JUVENILE APPEARS IN COURT?

- Juvenile will be represented by an attorney (retained or appointed)
- Judge reads the petition to the court room listing the charge
- Child admits or denies the charge
- The facts of the case are presented with victims, witnesses and school official being present
- Judge ascertains innocence or **in need of treatment supervision and rehabilitation**



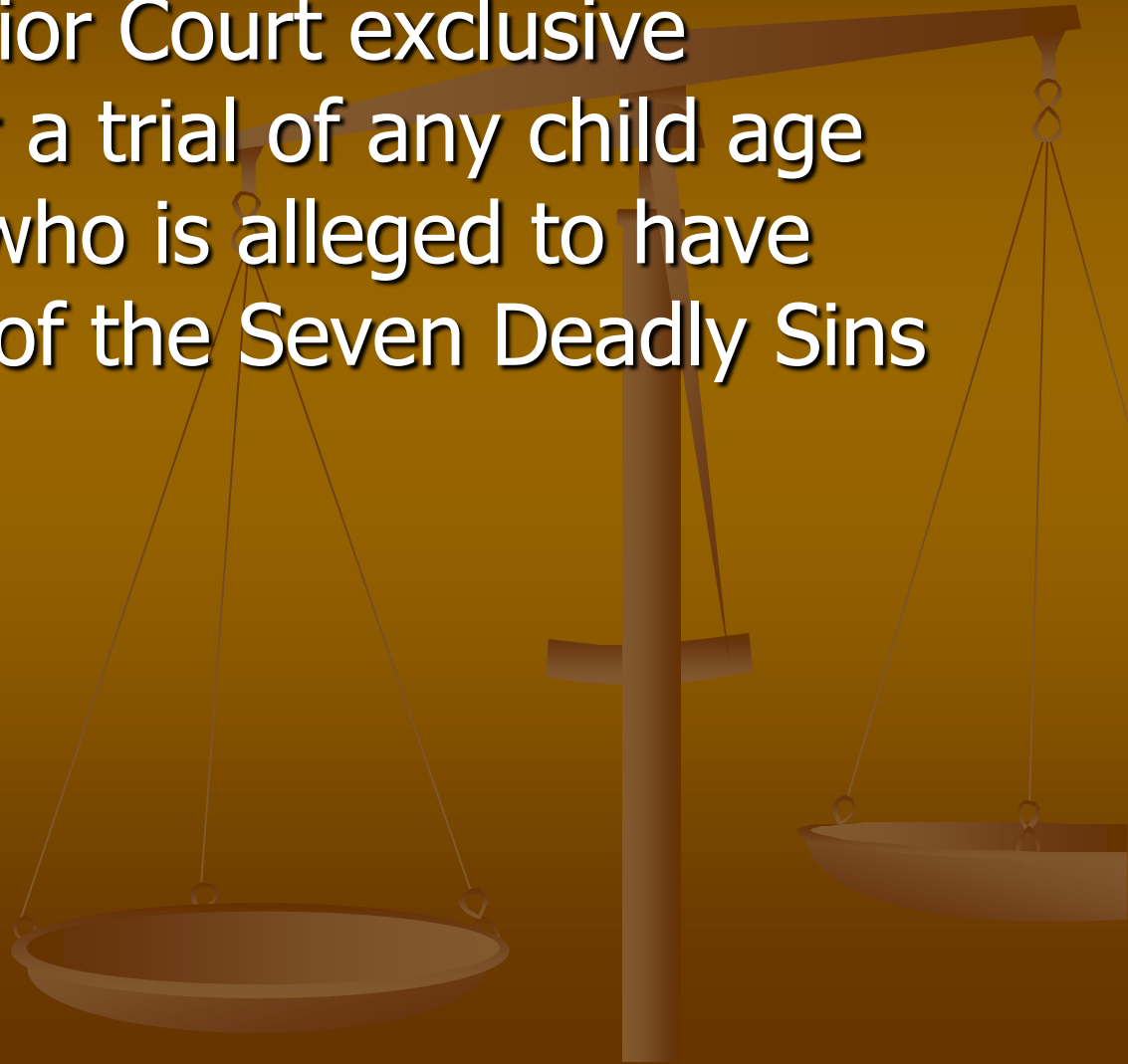
Juvenile Court Options

- 
- Probation
 - Confinement- YDC
 - Informal Adjustment
 - Community service
 - Decision Making
 - Anger Management
 - Drug Classes (7 Challenges)
 - Family Solutions
 - Safe Passage
 - Truancy Reduction
 - 5 years Confinement
 - Committed to DJJ
 - 12 to 24 months probation
 - Detain parents
 - Appoint advocates
 - Transfer cases to another state or county
 - Dismiss case

Senate Bill 440

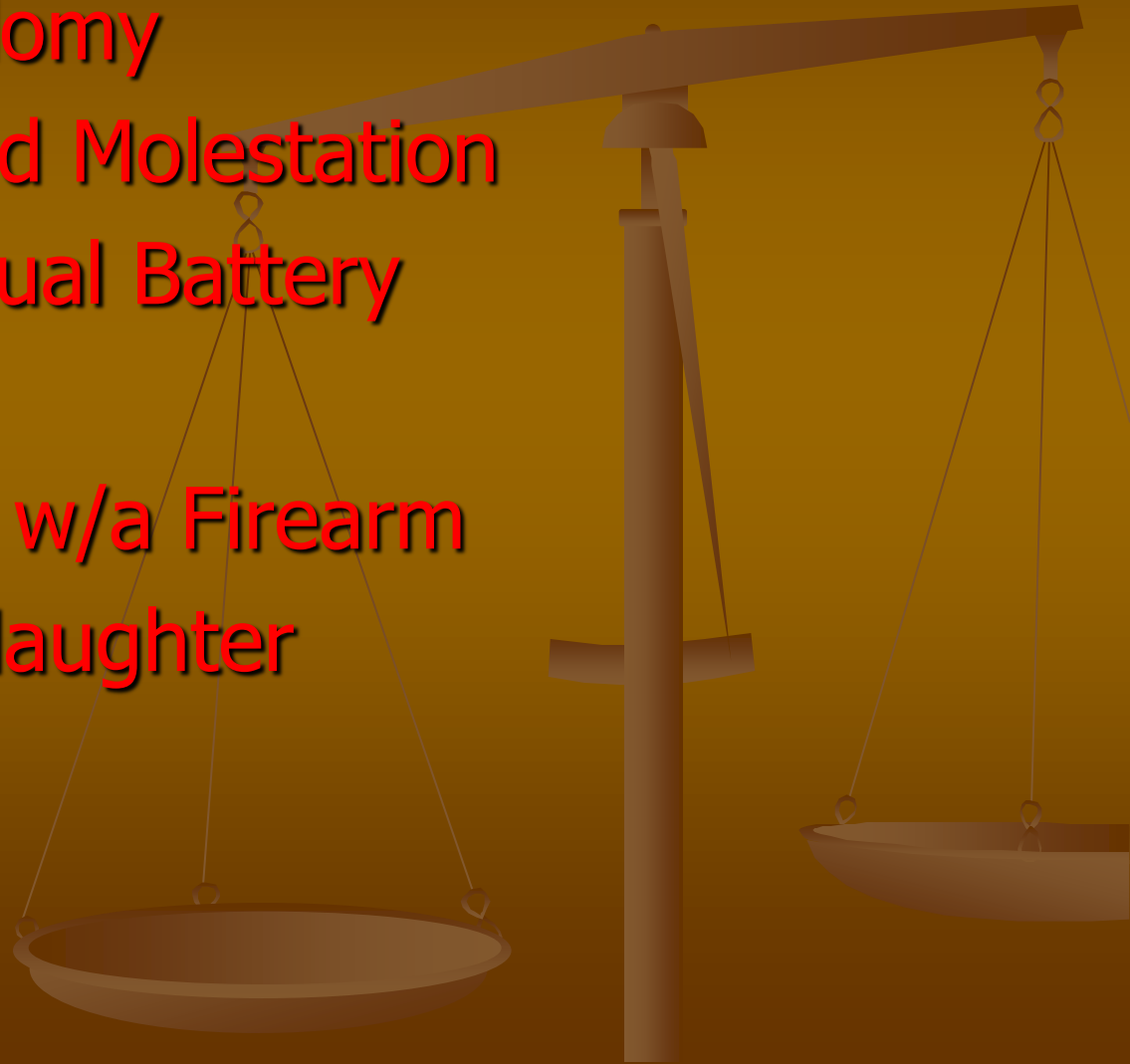
O.C.G.A. 15-11-28 (b)(2)(A)

- Gives the Superior Court exclusive jurisdiction over a trial of any child age 13 to 17 years who is alleged to have committed one of the Seven Deadly Sins



THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS AS LISTED IN JUVENILE COURT

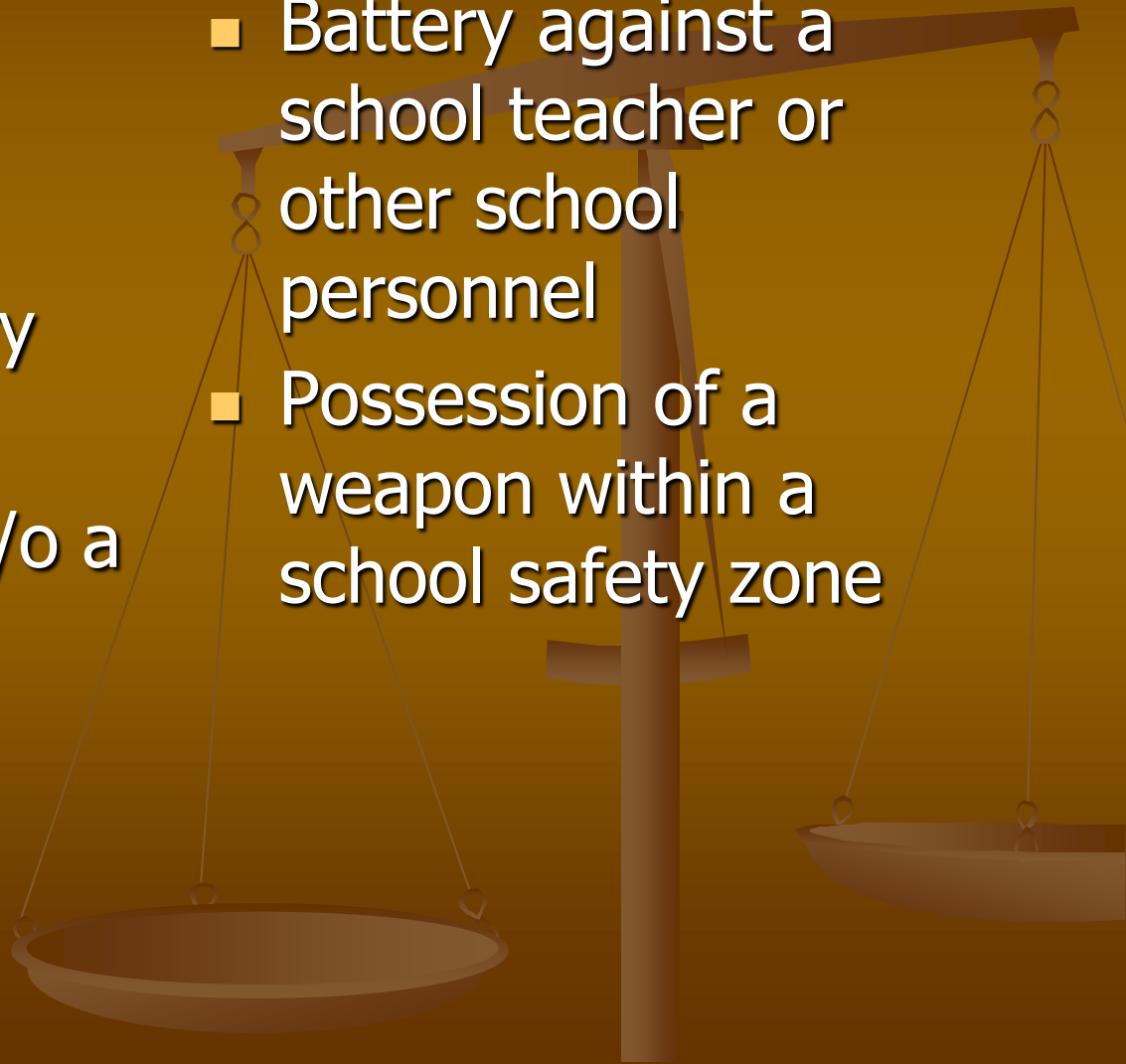
- Aggravated Sodomy
- Aggravated Child Molestation
- Aggravated Sexual Battery
- Murder
- Armed Robbery w/a Firearm
- Voluntary Manslaughter
- Rape



DESIGNATED FELONY

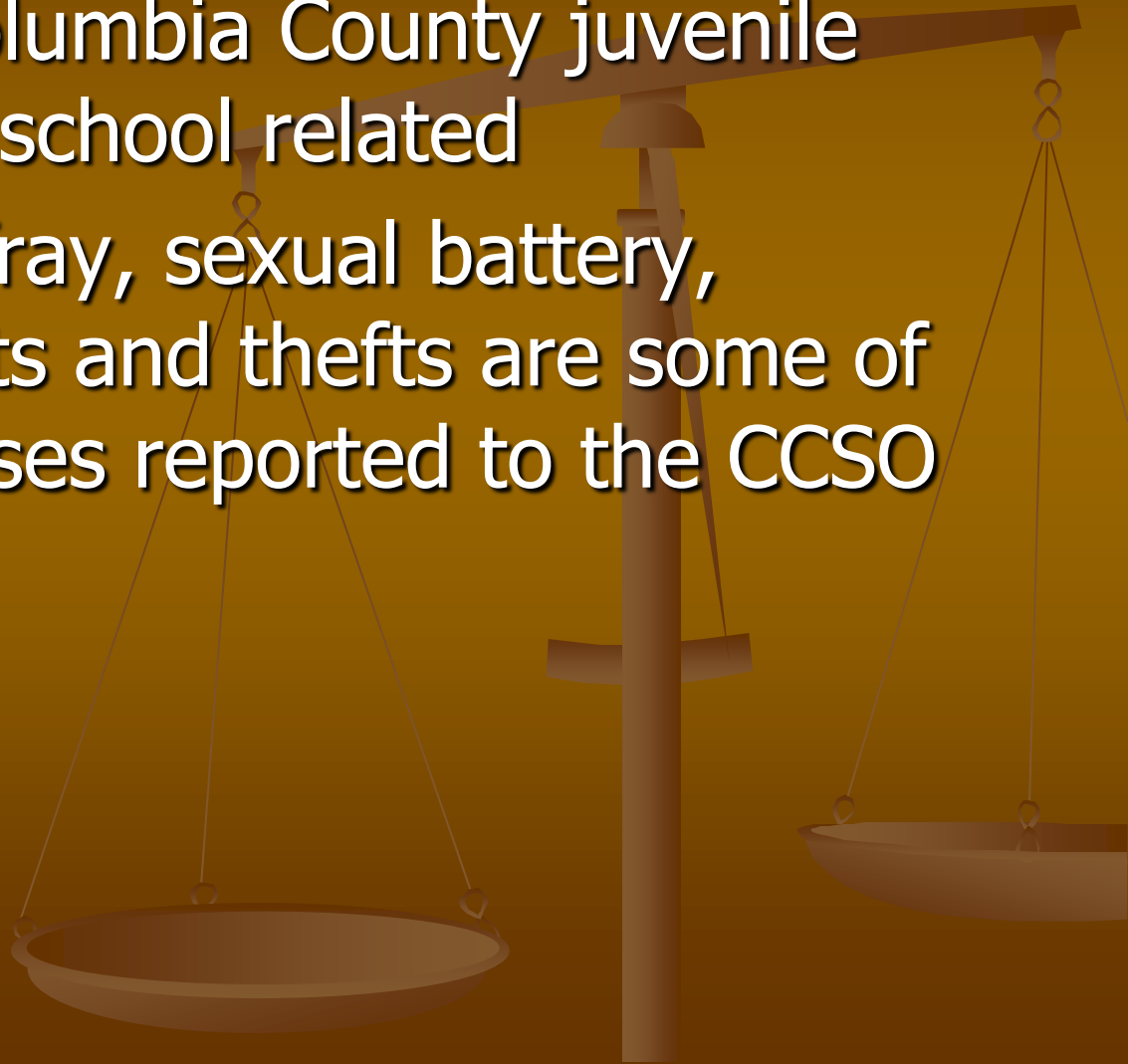
carries a 1 to 5 year sentence

- Kidnapping
- Arson in the 1st degree
- Aggravated Battery
- Robbery
- Armed Robbery w/o a firearm
- Battery against a school teacher or other school personnel
- Possession of a weapon within a school safety zone



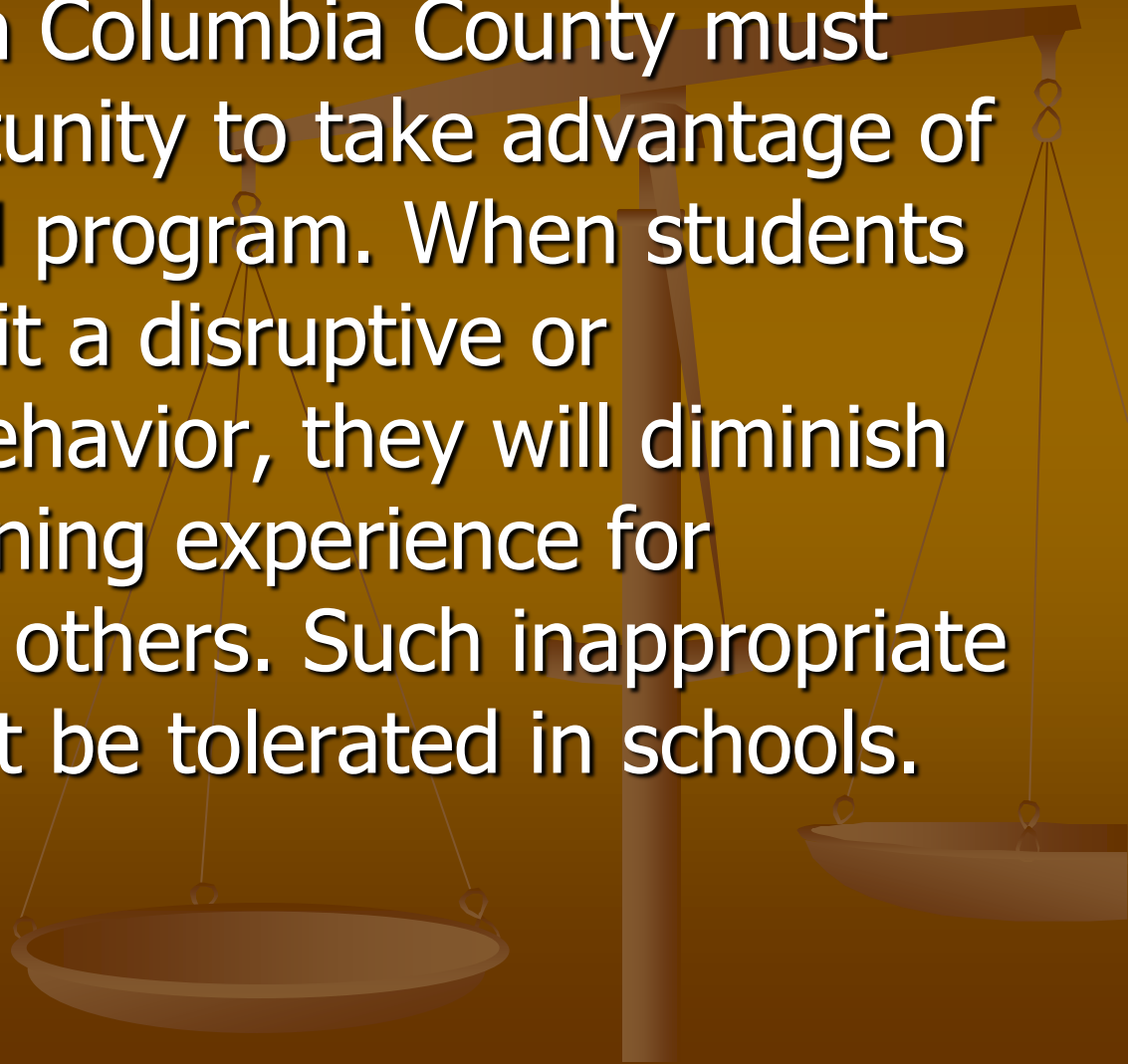
School Offenses

- 60 % of the Columbia County juvenile court cases are school related
- Drug cases, affray, sexual battery, terroristic threats and thefts are some of the major offenses reported to the CCSO



School Code Of Conduct

- Every student in Columbia County must have the opportunity to take advantage of the instructional program. When students choose to exhibit a disruptive or inappropriate behavior, they will diminish a favorable learning experience for themselves and others. Such inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated in schools.



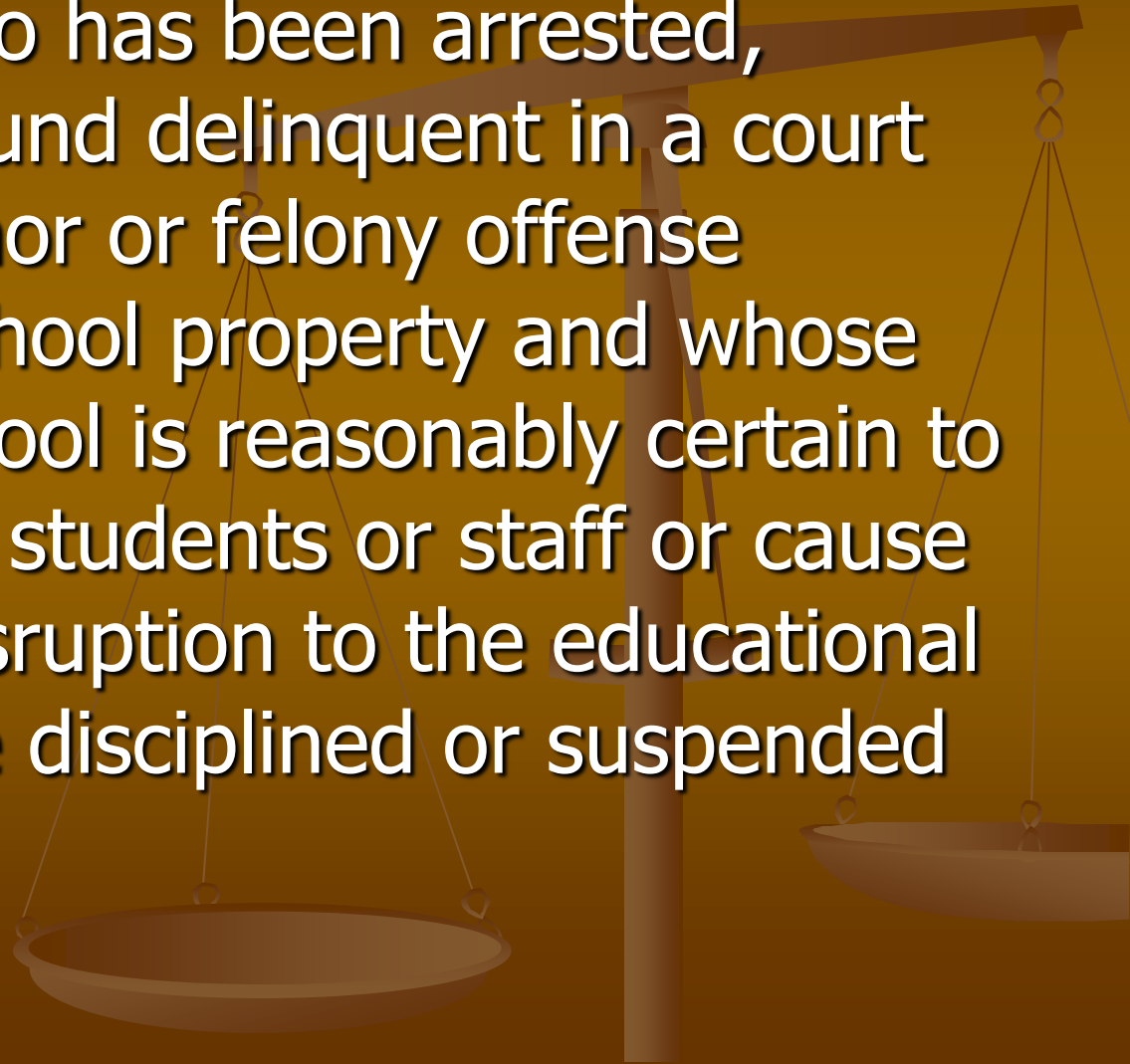
Does the Board of
Education have the right to
discipline a child for an
unrelated school incident?

YES

A faint, stylized illustration of a balance scale is visible in the background. The scale is tilted, with the left pan hanging lower than the right pan. The word "YES" is positioned above the left pan. The entire image has a monochromatic brown color scheme.

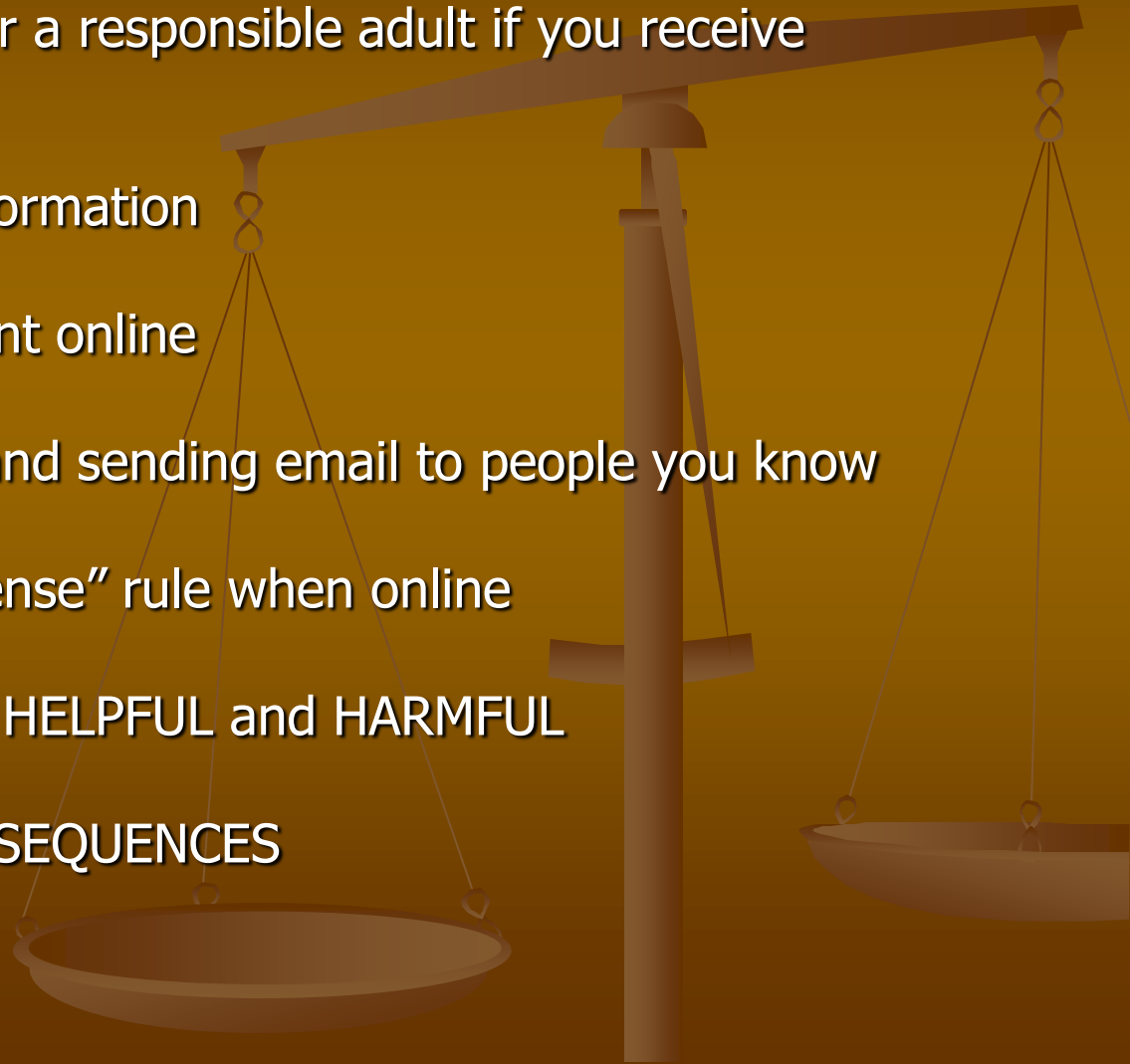
Zero Tolerance

- Any student who has been arrested, **charged**, or found delinquent in a court of a misdemeanor or felony offense occurring off school property and whose presence at school is reasonably certain to endanger other students or staff or cause a substantial disruption to the educational climate, may be disciplined or suspended from school.



Computers...CyberSpace...MySpace

- ABIDE by the guidelines established by your parents
- Confide in your parents or a responsible adult if you receive questionable email
- Never reveal personal information
- Limit amount of time spent online
- Limit instant messaging and sending email to people you know
- Activate the "Common Sense" rule when online
- Being online can be both HELPFUL and HARMFUL
- CHOICES PRODUCE CONSEQUENCES



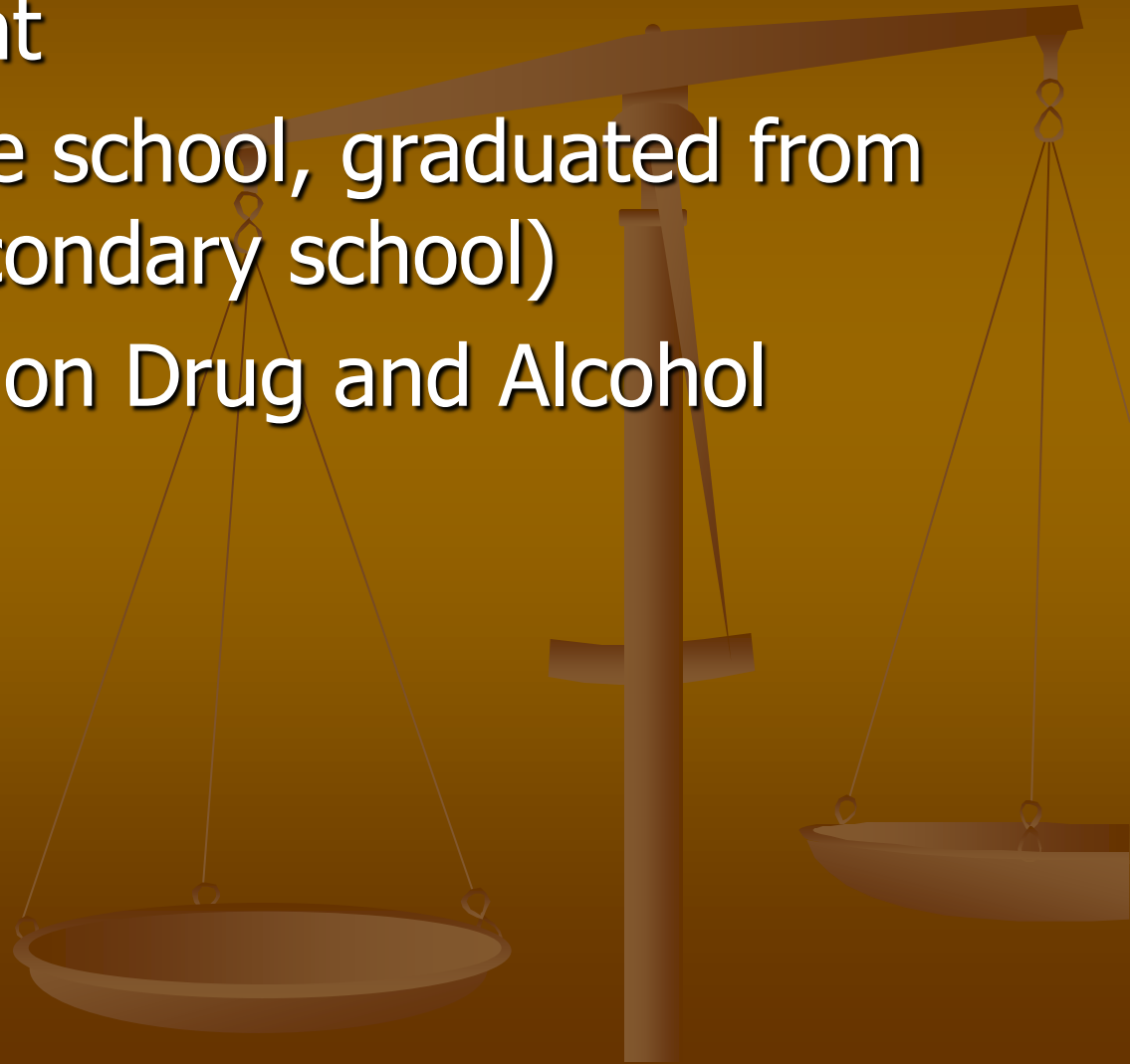
Traffic Laws

www.dmv.ga.gov

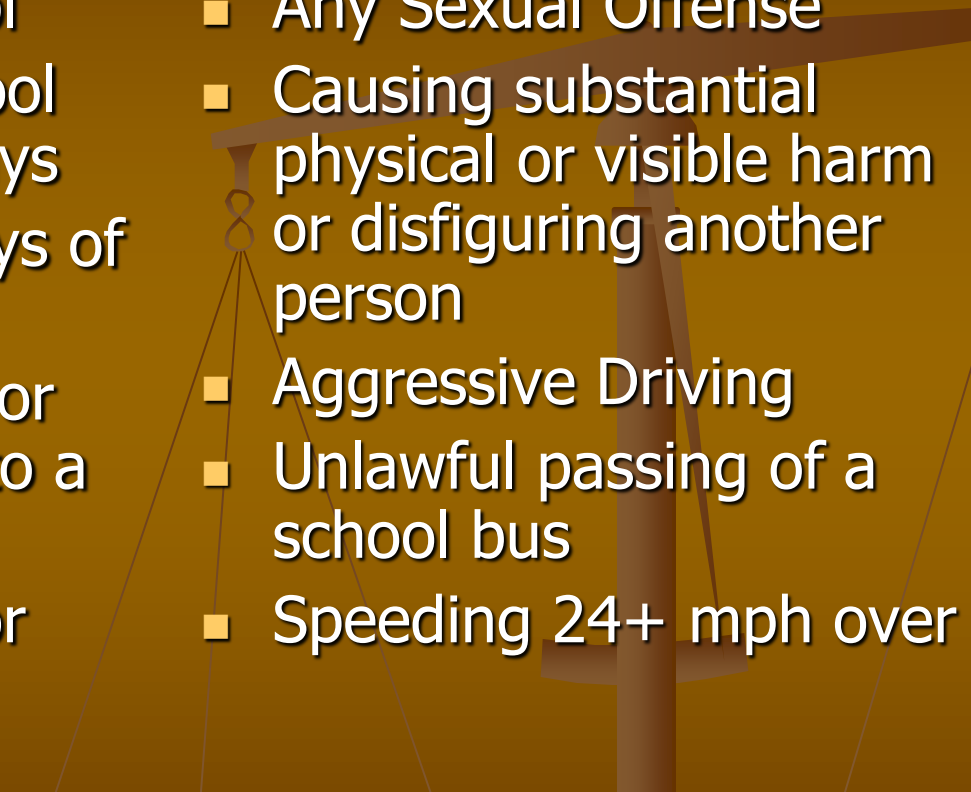
- At age 15 residents may become eligible to receive a Class C instructional permit.
- After holding the instructional permit for no less than one year, the driver may be issued a Class D driver's license. (for the first 6 months no unrelated passengers may ride with the driver).
- Drivers age 16-18 are allowed to drive between the hours of 6 a.m. and midnight.
- All permits and licenses are contingent upon several factors.

CONDITIONS TO DRIVE

- Parental Consent
- In School (home school, graduated from high school, secondary school)
- Taken a course on Drug and Alcohol



Suspension of License

- 
- Dropped out of school
 - Remained out of school for 10 consecutive days
 - Has more than 10 days of unexcused absences
 - Threatening, striking or causing bodily harm to a teacher
 - Possession of drugs or weapons on school property
 - Any Sexual Offense
 - Causing substantial physical or visible harm or disfiguring another person
 - Aggressive Driving
 - Unlawful passing of a school bus
 - Speeding 24+ mph over

Tools of Empowerment for Youths

THINK

- Think **Before** you speak
 - Think **Before** you act or react
 - Be selective in **choosing** a **"REAL FRIEND"**
 - Be selective as to **where** you **go** with your **"FRIENDS"**
 - Be selective in **what** you **do** while you're with your friend
 - You're not an **"ISLAND"**
 - Your choices **impact** others
 - **CHOICES PRODUCE CONSEQUENCES**
- 